

Message Text

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FOLLOWIN REPEAT LONDON 855 ACTION SECSTATE INFO DAR ES SALAAM
LUSAKA PRETORIA LOURENCO MARQUES CAPE TOWN 18 JAN

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 00855

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-L

TAGS: ETRD, PINT, RH, UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN SANCTIONS AND SMITH-MUZOREWA NEGOTIATIONS

REF: LONDON 693

1. ROBIN BYATT, HEAD OF RHODESIA DEPARTMENT, HAS SPOKEN TO US ABOUT AN ADVERTISEMENT WHICH APPEARED IN "SPECTATOR" MAGAZINE OF DECEMBER 22 AND "THE ECONOMIST" OF SAME DATE CALLING ATTENTION TO THE ATTRACTIONS OF RHODESIA AS A PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK. ADVERTISEMENT WAS PAID FOR BY RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN OFFICE REGARDS IT AS VIOLATION OF HMG'S RHODESIAN SANCTIONS ORDER.

2. BYATT SAID THAT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS HAS BEEN ASKED BY FCO TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE WERE
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GROUND FOR PROSECUTING PUBLISHERS OF THE TWO MAGAZINES

FOR ACCEPTING THIS ADVERTISEMENT. FCO RECOGNIZES, HOWEVER, THAT FROM LEGAL POINT OF VIEW IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE JUDICIAL SIDE OF GOVERNMENT THAT PUBLICATION CONTRAVENES THE RHODESIA ORDER. ADVERTISEMENT DOES NOT SAY IN SO MANY WORDS THAT RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT IS SOLICITING IMMIGRATION FROM THE BRITISH ISLES OR ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE ALTHOUGH THAT IS PLAINLY THE INTENT. FCO REQUEST WENT TO PUBLIC PROSECUTOR SHORTLY AFTER THE NEW YEAR BUT RESPONSE IS NOT ANTICIPATED FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER TWO WEEKS.

3. WITH RESPECT TO CURRENT STATUS OF SMITH-MUZOREWA NEGOTIATIONS, BYATT SAID THAT RECENT REPORT FROM SALISBURY TO THE EFFECT THAT MUZOREWA WAS BECOMING OPTIMISTIC HAD BEEN DENIED BY ANC REPRESENTATIVE IN LONDON ISMAEL MLAMBO IN MUCH THE SAME TERMS AS HE HAD USED IN DISCUSSING THE REPORT WITH EMBOFF EARLIER THIS WEEK (REFTEL). BYATT, REFLECTING HMG VIEWS, SAID THAT THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE BUT PROGRESS, IF ANY, HAS BEEN MODEST, LEAVING THE TWO SIDES AT SOME DISTANCE APART. HE AGREED WITH OUR ASSESSMENT THAT MLAMBO IS PROBABLY NOT FULLY IN AGREEMENT WITH THE BISHOP'S TACTICS AND THAT MUZOREWA MUST PROTECT HIMSELF AGAINST THE MORE MILITANT ELEMENTS IN THE ANC WHILE NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL PROCEEDING.

4. COMMENT: IT CONTINUES TO BE APPARENT THAT HMG WOULD BE PLEASED IF A REASONABLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED BETWEEN MUZOREWA AND SMITH EVEN THOUGH MANY AFRICAN ELEMENTS, INCLUDING SOME WITHIN THE ANC ITSELF, MIGHT NOT BE IN FULL AGREEMENT. IF MUZOREWA COULD CONVINCE ENOUGH OF HIS MODERATE FOLLOWERS TO SUPPORT SUCH AN AGREEMENT, HMG IN ITS PRESENT MOOD WOULD PROBABLY SEEK TO MAKE IT THE BASIS FOR A GRACEFUL WITHDRAWAL FROM RHODESIA.

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